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7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
8 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
9 AT SEATTLE

10 NORTHWEST  
11 ADMINISTRATORS, INC.,

12 Plaintiff,

13 v.

14 WESTERN HOLSTEIN FARMS,  
15 INC.,

Defendant.

CASE NO. C18-1494JLR

ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFF'S  
AMENDED MOTION FOR  
DEFAULT JUDGMENT

16 Before the court is Plaintiff Northwest Administrators, Inc.'s ("Northwest  
17 Administrators") amended motion for default judgment against Defendant Western  
18 Holstein Farms ("Western Holstein"). (Am. Mot. (Dkt. # 10); *see also* Praeipie (Dkt.  
19 # 12).) The court has reviewed the motion and Northwest Administrators' submissions in  
20 support of the motion. (*See* Am. Mot.; *see also* Am. Reid Decl. (Dkt. # 10); Am.  
21 Schumacher Decl. (Dkt. # 11).) For the reasons discussed below, the court DENIES the  
22 motion without prejudice.

1 On April 24, 2019, the court denied Northwest Administrators’ motion for default  
2 judgment. (4/24/18 Order (Dkt. # 9).) The court expressly noted that the second page of  
3 Exhibit H to Jeremy Schumacher’s declaration (“the Interest Worksheet”), a worksheet  
4 that purports to calculate the interest Western Holstein owes the Western Conference of  
5 Teamsters Pension Trust Fund (“the Trust”), “requires additional explanation.” (*Id.* at 3;  
6 *see also* Schumacher Decl. (Dkt. # 8) ¶ 20, Ex. H (“Interest Worksheet”) at 71.<sup>1</sup>) The  
7 court explained that, although Mr. Schumacher states in his declaration that Western  
8 Holstein failed to make any payments on its withdrawal liability after receiving the  
9 Trust’s July 20, 2018, demand letter, the Interest Worksheet appears to suggest that  
10 Western Holstein did in fact make several installment payments between June 10, 2018,  
11 and April 10, 2019. (4/24/18 Order at 3.)

12 In conjunction with its amended motion for default judgment, Northwest  
13 Administrators submits the same Interest Worksheet, with one modification (“the  
14 Amended Interest Worksheet”). (*See* Am. Schumacher Decl. ¶ 20, Ex. H (“Am. Interest  
15 Worksheet”) at 71.<sup>2</sup>) Whereas the Interest Worksheet originally identified “11  
16 [p]ayments” (*see* Interest Worksheet at 71), the Amended Interest Worksheet purports to  
17 identify “11 unpaid installments” (*see* Am. Interest Worksheet at 71). Yet, just as in the  
18 original Interest Worksheet, the sixth column of the Amended Interest Worksheet  
19 specifies the number of “[d]ays [l]ate” of each installment. (*Compare* Interest Worksheet  
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21 <sup>1</sup> The court cites the page number at the bottom-right corner of the document.

22 <sup>2</sup> The court cites the page number at the bottom-right corner of the document.

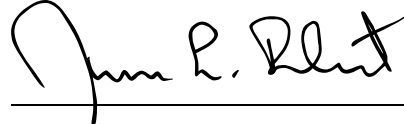
1 at 71 *with* Am. Interest Worksheet at 71.) Likewise, the eighth column of both  
2 worksheets specifies the “[t]ime [p]eriod” associated with each installment, which, at  
3 times, appears to correlate with the number of “[l]ate” days for that installment. (*Id.*)

4 On its face, this information suggests that Western Holstein made several  
5 installment payments: if a payment is a specific number of “[d]ays [l]ate,” and the total  
6 number of “[d]ays [l]ate” is less than the time between the date the installment was due  
7 and the date the motion for default judgment was filed, then that payment was,  
8 presumably, made. (*See* Am. Interest Worksheet at 71.) Mr. Schumacher fails to clarify  
9 this ambiguity. (*See generally* Am. Schumacher Decl.) Moreover, Mr. Schumacher fails  
10 to explain the relationship between the total alleged amount of Western Holstein’s  
11 liability (\$116,063.06) and the total listed at the bottom of the Amended Interest  
12 Worksheet (\$86,360.23). (*See id.* ¶ 20; Am. Interest Worksheet at 71; *see generally* Am.  
13 Schumacher Decl.) The court cannot simply overlook these ambiguities, and it declines  
14 to further attempt to make sense of the Amended Interest Worksheet on its own. *See*  
15 *Indep. Towers of Wash. v. Washington*, 350 F.3d 925, 929 (9th Cir. 2003) (“[J]udges are  
16 not like pigs, hunting for truffles buried in briefs.”) (quoting *United States v. Dunkel*, 927  
17 F.2d 955, 956 (7th Cir. 1991)).

18 For the foregoing reasons, the court DENIES Northwest Administrators’ amended  
19 motion for default judgment (Dkt. # 10) without prejudice to refiling with the corrections  
20 discussed herein. The court ORDERS Northwest Administrators to file, within 14 days  
21 of the date of this order, a second amended motion for default judgment that clarifies the  
22 import of the sixth and eighth columns of the Interest Worksheet and otherwise complies

1 with Local Rule 55(b). *See* Local Rules W.D. Wash. LCR 55(b). The court cautions  
2 Northwest Administrators that, in the interest of conserving judicial resources, the court  
3 will consider denying with prejudice the second amended motion for default judgment if  
4 it is inaccurate, insufficiently supported, or inadequately explained.

5 Dated this 13th day of May, 2019.

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7 The Honorable James L. Robart  
8 U.S. District Court Judge  
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